(1) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
(2) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.
(3) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the hearing Handicapped, Bombay.
(4) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

In addition to these the following two Institutions have been set up primarily as service institutions for providing general services to the handicapped persons:—

(1) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
(2) National Institute of Rehabilitation Training & Research, Oletpur, Orissa.

6. Employment:

(i) 3% vacancies is reserved for physically handicapped % each for the visual, hearing and Orthopaedically handicapped in Group 'C' & 'D' posts Central Govt. and Public Sector Undertakings. Similar reservations have been given by some State Governments. The handicapped including the blind are also have age concession in the upper age limit and relaxation in the medical standards for entry into Government service.

(ii) 35 Special Employment Exchanges and special cells for the handicapped persons have been set up exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides the Normal employment exchanges also help the handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(iii) Seventeen Vocational Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to assess the residual ability of the diabled, arrange their training and place them in employment.

(iv) Self-employment is promoted through the following:—

(a) Allotment of vending stalls, kiosks, petty shops;
(b) Loans from Nationalised Banks at nominal rates of interest under differential rate of interest scheme;
(c) Allotment of public telephone booths;
(d) Reservation in distribution of petrol pumps, kerosene depots etc.

7. Scheme of Assistance to Disabled for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances:

The main objective of the scheme is to assist needy physically handicapped persons in procuring durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured aids and appliances that promote their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation. The scheme is implemented through centres run by the Companies, registered under Companies Act, registered Societies, Trusts or any other institutions recognised by the Ministry of Welfare. Both Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies are thus engaged for the implementation of the scheme.

Under the scheme, aids and appliances upto value of Rs. 3600/- are distributed to the disabled persons free of costs if their monthly income is upto Rs. 1200/- and at 50% of the cost if the income is between Rs. 1201/- and 2500/-.

Deteriorating Functioning of UGC

672. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the functioning of the U.G.C. has been deteriorating over the years and that the U.G.C. is virtually non-functional.

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the circumstances leading to the sorry-state of affairs in U.G.C.;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what remedial measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (d) In the meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 1 August, 1995, members pointed out that over the years there has been a deterioration in certain aspects of the functioning of UGC. Chairperson, UGC explained some of the administrative and financial problems being faced by the Commission. She also informed the members that these were being looked into at her level in review meetings with senior officials. It was decided that members of the Commission may be requested to interact with senior officers to assist them in resolving these difficulties.

With a view to improving its operational efficiency and decentralising its working, the Commission has recently established five Regional Offices in different parts of the country.

This Department is rendering necessary support and assistance to the University Grants Commission in the discharge of its functions.

Revamping of IISCO

673. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) when the case of IISCO for revamping or otherwise was referred to BIFR;

(b) whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether any proposal of handing over its running to SAIL or employees is pending consideration before Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when Government is expected to take a final decision; and

(f) pending all these decisions in which manner Govt. propose to meet the day to day requirements, including payment of salary of employees of IISCO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e) Since Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO) became a sick industrial company in terms of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (as amended in February, 1994) a reference was made by the Board of Directors of IISCO to BIFR on 22nd June, 1994, as required under Section 15 of the Act, for determination of measures to be adopted with respect to the company.

Any scheme to be taken up for modernisation of IISCO will, therefore, have to be in accordance with the orders of the BIFR in this regard.

(f) Though IISCO has been referred to BIFR, its production and other activities have not been suspended. Its day to day requirements including payment of salaries to employees, are met through funds generated from its normal operations, borrowings from banks, material/funds support from SAIL etc.

Financing Irrigation Projects in Madhya Pradesh

674. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh, districtwise, being financed by the European Economic Community (EEC) alongwith the amount thereof;

(b) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh have approached the EEC to take up more funds/projects; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There is no irrigation project in Madhya Pradesh financed with EEC assistance.